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**Deadly severe weather roars through several states, spawning potential tornadoes**

A steel billboard and its support were blown over in Dunbar, W.Va., Tuesday, April 2, 2024, after severe storms blew through the area.

Associated Press  
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## Deadly severe weather roars through several states, spawning potential tornadoes

From Front

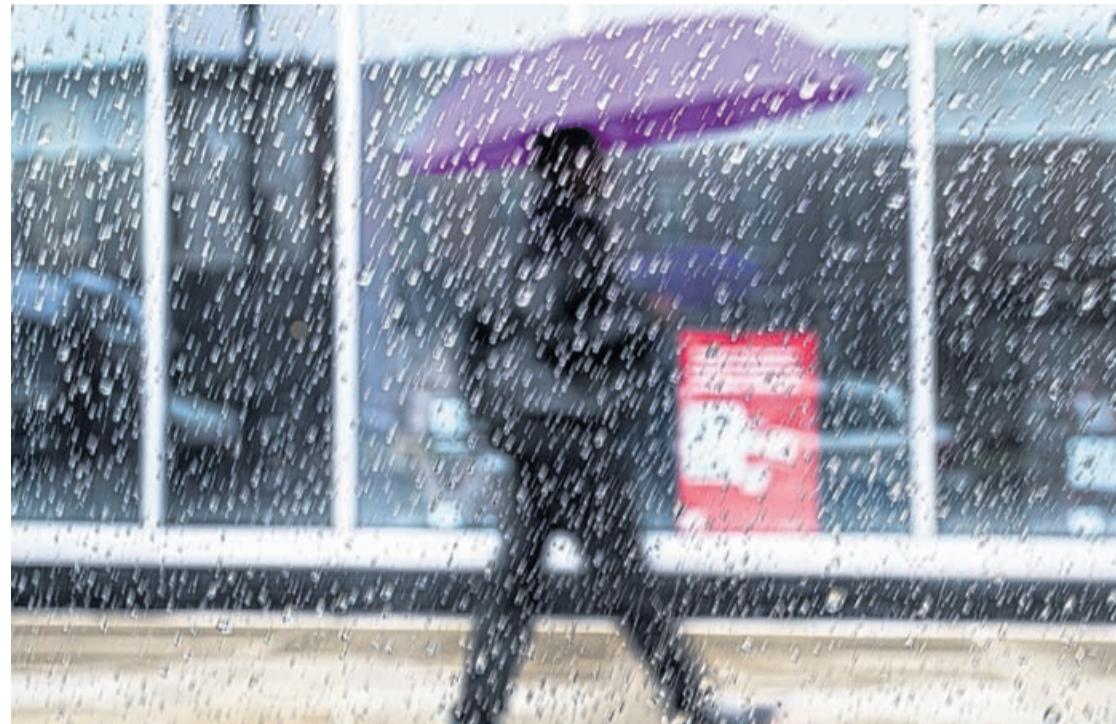
By BRUCE SHPKOWSKI  
Associated Press

Thousands of homes and businesses were without power Tuesday as severe weather roared through several states, causing at least one death and spawning possible tornadoes. In West Virginia, about 140,000 customers were without electricity Tuesday afternoon, or about 14% of all customers tracked in the state by poweroutage.us. Meanwhile, a spring snowstorm was expected to drop more than a foot of snow in Wisconsin.

One of the hardest-hit areas was northeastern Oklahoma, where a strong weather system containing heavy rains produced three suspected tornadoes. The storms were also blamed for the death of a 46-year-old homeless woman in Tulsa who died inside a drainage pipe, police said.

Tulsa Fire Department spokesperson Andy Little said the woman's boyfriend told authorities the two had gone to sleep at the entrance of the drainage pipe and were awoken by the flood waters. National Weather Service meteorologist Robert Darby said up to 1.5 inches (3.81 centimeters) of rain fell in Tulsa in about one hour before moving northeastward out of the state.

"It wasn't a whole lot. But when it came down it was pretty rapid," Darby said. In Ohio, firefighters came to the rescue of two people who were trapped under a bridge early Tuesday when the waters of an Ohio river began rising, and forecasters warned more severe weather was headed to the area. The two people were sleeping under the bridge around 8:45 a.m. when the Scioto



Raindrops fall on a window pane as a pedestrian walks by on Tuesday, Apr 4, 2024, during a heavy rainfall in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

River started to rise, the Columbus Fire Department reported. While the pair were never directly in the water, the flooding prevented them from returning to the shore, so a fire department boat was sent to rescue them.

No injuries were reported. In southern Ohio, Mindy Broughton, 49, rushed into her mobile home Tuesday morning as the hail began pouring down and the winds picked up at the RV Park where she has lived near Hanging Rock for two years.

Broughton and her finance hunkered down as the mobile home quickly began rocking. Broughton said her finance used his body to shield her as the winds raged outside. "I said I think we may die today," she said.

In a matter of seconds, the winds died down. When Broughton opened her mobile home door, she saw the devastation left behind. The RV Park was littered with debris and overturned RVs. Luckily, Broughton said there was

no one inside the overturned mobile homes that could be seen in her Facebook Live video.

One neighbor told Broughton that he had seen a funnel cloud. The National Weather Service of Charleston, West Virginia, had issued a tornado warning for the Mid-Ohio valley Tuesday morning.

After Tuesday's storm, Broughton headed to a nearby American Legion building. She said she's not sticking around in case the weather worsens.

Severe storms also swept through far southwestern Indiana on Tuesday morning, toppling trees and causing power outages, leading several local school districts to cancel the day's classes. More than 18,000 homes and businesses were without power shortly before noon Tuesday, including in Vanderburgh County, home to Evansville, Indiana's third-largest city.

Residents in Wisconsin were bracing for a spring snowstorm that forecasters warned

could dump more than a foot of snow in eastern parts of the state, including the Green Bay area. The state's top election official, Meagan Wolfe, urged residents planning to vote in Tuesday's presidential primaries to consider voting earlier in the day, depending on their local forecast, to avoid travel woes.

The National Weather Service said snowfall totals could range from 4 to 8 inches over central Wisconsin and 8 to 14 inches over eastern Wisconsin, while wind gusts of 30 mph to 50 mph will create very limited visibility and make travel difficult at best. Meteorologist Scott Cultice with the weather service's Green Bay office said the storm will bring "a very heavy, wet snow" to central and eastern Wisconsin, but is nothing unusual for early April in the state.

"Just three weeks ago we were in the 70s, so that kind of got people thinking spring is right around the corner — and here we're in April and we're getting a major

snowstorm," Cultice said. "As people say, 'That's springtime in Wisconsin.' "

In West Virginia, a storm blew off part of a vacant building's roof in downtown Charleston, littering the street with bricks and closing the roadway to traffic Tuesday afternoon. Trees were dislodged from the earth by the roots and lay in roads, lawns and in some cases, on top of cars. Gov. Jim Justice said his team is monitoring damage across the state.

"We know power lines, trees, and debris are in the roadways, and I urge everyone to proceed with caution," he wrote on the social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear declared a state of emergency after severe storms swept through the state Tuesday morning and another round was forecast later in the day. The storms brought tornado warnings, heavy rain and wind along with hail and lightning.

"We have reports of substantial damage to a number of structures — and thankfully, as of right now we are not aware of any fatalities," Beshear said in a statement. "We need all Kentuckians to stay weather aware as we brace for more severe weather throughout the afternoon and evening."

Due to pending weather conditions, all executive branch state office buildings were closed Tuesday afternoon. Some universities around the state also canceled in-person classes Tuesday afternoon and evening because of the impending weather. Forecasters issued a tornado watch for northeast Mississippi, north Alabama, middle Tennessee and parts of western Tennessee that runs until 9 p.m. Central Standard Time. □

## Freight railroads must keep 2-person crews, according to new federal rule 2 years in the making

By JOSH FUNK  
AP Business Writer

Major freight railroads will have to maintain two-person crews on most routes under a new federal rule that was finalized Tuesday in a milestone in organized labor's long fight to preserve the practice.

The Transportation Department's Federal Railroad Administration released the details of the rule Tuesday morning after working on it for two years. Out of more than 13,000 comments on the rule, about 60 opposed it. There has been intense focus on railroad safety since a fiery February 2023 derailment in Ohio, but few significant changes have been made apart from steps the railroads pledged to take themselves and the agreements they made to provide paid sick time to nearly all workers. Such changes include adding hundreds more trackside detectors and tweaking how to respond to alerts from them. A railroad safety bill proposed in response to the derailment has stalled in Congress. Rail unions have long opposed one-person crews because of safety and job concerns. Labor agreements requiring two-person crews have been in place for roughly 30 years at major railroads, although many short-line railroads already operate with one-person crews without problems. The unions say that conductors are crucial in helping operate the train and keeping engineers alert, and that they serve as first responders.

"As trains — many carrying hazardous material — have grown longer, crews should not be getting smaller," said Eddie Hall, the president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen union. He praised the FRA for taking the step President Joe Biden promised. Hall said keeping two people in the cab of a locomotive is crucial now that railroads rely on longer trains that routinely stretch for miles.

Transportation Secretary



A CSX train engine sits idle on tracks in Philadelphia, Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2022.

Associated Press

Pete Buttigieg said that the U.S. shouldn't accept the current average of nearly three derailments a day, and that regulators will keep fighting to improve that record. "When good safety rules have been put in place over the years, especially after high-profile incidents, we see derailments come down on mainline tracks. But as attention faded on those incidents, the railroad industry lobby was consistently able to weaken or delay important safety provisions," Buttigieg said at a news conference.

Railroads have a history of resisting new regulations as they sought the discretion to operate trains with only one person and to move conductors to ground-based jobs in places with automatic braking systems. Conductors in a truck would respond to train problems and derailments in a certain territory. It has been a key issue in contract talks for years, though the railroads abandoned the proposal just as the 2022 negotiations approached a strike.

The railroads argue that the size of train crews should be determined by contract talks, not regulators or lawmakers, because they maintain there isn't enough data to show that two-person crews are safer. The norm on major railroads is two-person crews, so cur-

rent safety statistics reflect that reality. The industry

pointed out that the FRA abandoned a similar rule

during the administration of former President Donald Trump, with the agency saying in 2019 that there wasn't enough evidence to support it. "FRA is doubling down on an unfounded and unnecessary regulation that has no proven connection to rail safety," said Ian Jefferies, president and CEO of the Association of American Railroads trade group.

The East Palestine, Ohio, derailment put a national spotlight on rail safety because of the consequences of the hazardous chemicals that spilled and caught fire, forcing thousands of residents to evacuate and causing lingering health concerns. □



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# The largest fresh egg producer in the US has found bird flu in chickens at Texas and Michigan plants

By KEN MILLER  
Associated Press

The largest producer of fresh eggs in the U.S. said Tuesday it had temporarily halted production at a Texas plant after bird flu was found in chickens, and officials said the virus had also been detected at a poultry facility in Michigan.

In Texas, Ridgeland, Mississippi-based Cal-Maine Foods, Inc. said in a statement that approximately 1.6 million laying hens and 337,000 pullets, about 3.6% of its total flock, were destroyed after the infection, avian influenza, was found at the facility in Parmer County, Texas.

The plant is on the Texas-New Mexico border in the Texas Panhandle about 85 miles (137 kilometers) southwest of Amarillo and about 370 miles (595 kilometers) northwest of Dallas.

"The Company continues to work closely with federal, state and local government officials and focused industry groups to mitigate the risk of future outbreaks and effectively manage the response," according to the statement.

"Cal-Maine Foods is working to secure production from



Cases of eggs from Cal-Maine Foods, Inc., await to be handed out by the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce employees at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds in Jackson, Miss., on Aug. 7, 2020.

Associated Press

other facilities to minimize disruption to its customers," the statement said.

The company said there is no known bird flu risk associated with eggs that are currently in the market and no eggs have been recalled.

Eggs that are properly handled and cooked are safe to eat, according to the

U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The announcement by Cal-Maine comes a day after state health officials said a person had been diagnosed with bird flu after being in contact with cows presumed to be infected, and that the risk to the public remains low.

In Michigan, Michigan

State University's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory has detected bird flu in a commercial poultry facility in Ionia County, according to the Michigan's Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The county is about 100 miles (161 kilometers) northwest of Detroit.

The department said it re-

ceived confirmation of the disease Monday from the lab and that it is the fourth time since 2022 that the disease was detected at a commercial facility in Michigan.

Department spokesperson Jennifer Holton said Tuesday that state law prohibits the department from disclosing the type of poultry at the facility in Ionia.

The facility has been placed under quarantine and the department does not anticipate any disruptions to supply chains across the state, Holton said.

The human case in Texas marks the first known instance globally of a person catching this version of bird flu from a mammal, federal health officials said.

Dairy cows in Texas and Kansas were reported to be infected with bird flu last week — and federal agriculture officials later confirmed infections in a Michigan dairy herd that had recently received cows from Texas.

The company said Cal-Maine sells most of its eggs in the Southwestern, Southeastern, Midwestern and mid-Atlantic regions of the United States. □



Menthol cigarettes and other tobacco products are displayed at a store in San Francisco on May 17, 2018.

Associated Press

By MATTHEW PERRONE  
AP Health Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Anti-smoking groups sued the U.S. government Tuesday over a long-awaited ban on menthol cigarettes, which has been idling at the White House for months.

The lawsuit is the latest effort to force the government to ban menthol, which are disproportionately used by Black smokers and young people. It comes amid growing concerns from advocates that the federal plan could be

## Lawsuit seeks to force ban on menthol cigarettes after months of delays by Biden administration

derailed by election-year politics. Health officials under President Joe Biden initially targeted last August to publish the rule eliminating the minty flavor. Late last year, White House officials said they would take until March to review the rule. Three nonprofit groups, including Action on Smoking and Health, filed their lawsuit in a federal court in California after the March deadline passed.

"Because of defendants' inaction, tobacco companies have continued to use menthol cigarettes to target youth, women, and the Black community — all to the detriment of public health," the groups state in their complaint.

A spokesperson for the White House declined to comment on the lawsuit Tuesday. The Food and Drug Administration has spent years developing the plan to eliminate menthol, estimating it could prevent 300,000 to 650,000 smoking deaths over several decades. Most of those preventable deaths would be among Black Americans.

Like all major federal regulations, the plan must get final approval from the White House.

Previous FDA efforts on menthol have been scuttled by tobacco industry pushback or competing political priorities across several administrations. The latest delay comes as

Democrats voice worries about Biden's prospects in a rematch against former President Donald Trump.

White House officials have held dozens of meetings with groups opposing the menthol ban, including civil rights advocates, business owners and law enforcement officials. Some suggested a rule targeting menthol could suppress Biden's turnout among Black voters. In almost all cases, groups opposing the ban receive financial support from tobacco companies. In recent months, supporters of the plan have tried to assure the White House that banning menthol will not hurt Biden's re-election chances. □

## Aid organizations suspend operations in Gaza after World Central Kitchen workers' deaths

By GLENN GAMBOA and SARAH EL DEEB

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Several humanitarian aid organizations suspended operations in Gaza on Tuesday after Israeli airstrikes killed seven World Central Kitchen workers.

The nonprofits, including World Central Kitchen, said they now need to determine whether their workers can safely provide aid in the region. According to the United Nations, more than 180 humanitarian aid workers have died since the war began in October.

"We are horrified and heartbroken by the tragic killing of seven innocent humanitarians in Gaza," said Chris Skopec, executive vice president of global health at Project HOPE, which operates health clinics in Rafah and Deir al-Balah and provides medical supplies and other aid to area hospitals.

The three World Central Kitchen vehicles, hit after loading up with food from a nearby warehouse, were clearly marked and their movements were known to the Israeli military, accord-



Palestinians inspect a vehicle with the logo of the World Central Kitchen wrecked by an Israeli airstrike in Deir al Balah, Gaza Strip, Tuesday, April 2, 2024.

Associated Press

ing to the organization. Those steps are what humanitarian workers use to try to ensure their safety in the dangerous region, Skopec said. For the World Central Kitchen convoy to still be hit with military fire increased apprehension among aid workers in the region, he said.

"There needs to be accountability," Skopec said. "The government of Israel

needs to be able to give assurances that they consider aid workers legitimate actors in Gaza and that international law will be respected. We need to be able to do this critical, life-saving work safely."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu acknowledged that the country's forces had carried out the "unintended strike ... on innocent people." He said

officials were looking into the strike and would work to ensure it did not happen again.

In a briefing Tuesday, White House national security spokesman John Kirby said the United States is concerned the incident could have a chilling effect on other groups carrying out aid operations in the territory.

Anera, a partner of World

Central Kitchen and Project HOPE that provides humanitarian aid in the Middle East, also announced Tuesday it would take the "unprecedented step" of pausing its humanitarian operations in Gaza. Since the war began, Anera's team has provided an average of 150,000 meals daily in Gaza.

"The blatant nature of the attack on WCK's convoy has proven that aid workers are currently under attack," said Anera media relations officer Steve Fale. "Our decision to resume aid relies on the safety of our staff."

The International Medical Corps, which has one of the largest field hospitals in Rafah with 140 beds said it is "rethinking our process," including its plans to set up another field hospital in Deir al-Balah.

"It is devastating," said Dr. Zawar Ali, who has been running the Rafah field hospital and is working to set up the new hospital. "It really is an immense blow to morale. It puts us (in) a very uncertain position in terms of our coordination with the different actors for security." □

## Cyprus president asks EU Commission chief to get Lebanon to stop migrants from leaving its shores

By MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS  
Associated Press

**NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)** — The president of Cyprus said on Tuesday that he has personally asked the head of the European Union's executive arm to intercede with Lebanese authorities to stop boatloads of Syrian refugees from heading to the east Mediterranean island nation. President Nikos Christodoulides told reporters that Lebanon is the beneficiary of significant EU financial aid for both its own citizens and for the hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees it continues to host, but that doesn't come without strings attached.

"This aid can't be given while we have to deal with this issue," Christodoulides said,

adding that he personally spoke with EU Commission Chief Ursula von der Leyen. In the last 48 hours, more than 350 migrants and asylum seekers, almost exclusively Syrian nationals, arrived in Cyprus by boat, according to Cypriot government spokesman Constantinos Letymbiotis. It's believed more boatloads of migrants are on their way. Last month, some 450 Syrian migrants aboard six boats were spotted off the southeastern coast of Cyprus within a 24-hour span. All six boats had departed from Lebanon.

"It's not only the Republic of Cyprus but the EU itself that is facing a serious problem, given these phenomena we have seen in recent days,"

Christodoulides said. The EU is willing to give Lebanon more money to cope with the huge number of refugees it hosts, but "for this thing to happen, Lebanon shouldn't allow migrants to leave and come to Cyprus," he added.

The Cypriot president also said the recent seaborne influx of Syrian migrants has put Cyprus back into "crisis mode" despite managing in recent months to repatriate more migrants who had their asylum applications rejected than those arriving. Christodoulides chaired an ad-hoc meeting of top police and government officials Tuesday in an effort to come up with ways of dealing with the sudden migrant influx. He said his government could



Migrants carrying their suitcases, exit the Pournara migrant reception center, following fighting between rival groups inside the camp near the village of Kokkinotrimithia on the outskirts of the capital Nicosia, Cyprus, Friday, Oct. 28, 2022.

Associated Press

adopt additional, temporary measures designed to help authorities cope with the influx that may not be "liked" by Cypriots. He did not elaborate.

Meanwhile, Cyprus said a government proposal to enable repatriations of Syrian refugees by designating specific areas within the country as safe zones

is "gaining ground" among the island nation's fellow EU member states.

Justice Minister Constantinos Ioannou said that given the potential risk of the Israeli-Hamas war in Gaza engulfing Lebanon and other Middle Eastern states, it's incumbent on the EU to reach a collective decision on Syria. □

# Ukrainians file online compensation claims as register opens of damage to homes caused by war

By MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — A register for Ukrainians to seek compensation for damage to their homes as a result of Russia's invasion opened Tuesday and more than 100 people filed online claims, ministers attending a conference on justice for Ukraine said.

"It's a sign of how high the demand is, but it's also a sign of how thirsty people are for justice," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba told reporters.

The Hague-based Register of Damage Caused by the Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, also known as RD4U, was established by the Council of Europe last year.

The dozens of compensation applications filed Tuesday are the tip of an iceberg. The Council of Europe expects between 300,000 and 600,000 claims. RD4U aims to allow further claims soon, including those related to damage or destruction of Ukrainian critical infrastructure.

The register will not pay out any claims, but is a stepping stone toward an international compensation mechanism that has not yet been established.

As the conference opened



Woman cares on the grave of a relative killed in combat at the cemetery in Bucha, outskirts of Kyiv, Saturday March 30, 2024.

Associated Press

with the devastating war sparked by Russia's invasion in its third year, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy used a video message to urge delegates to continue efforts to tackle impunity for war crimes in order to "provide real strength to our common security — security from aggressions and terror." In a closing declaration, 44 countries, including the United States, United Kingdom, Germany and France, pledged to work toward establishing a special tribunal

for the investigation and prosecution of the crime of aggression against Ukraine where Russian leaders could be prosecuted.

"We welcome significant progress made in this regard, and we encourage interested States and international organisations to strengthen their efforts to secure a sound legal basis and broad international support for the completion of this process," the declaration said.

Talks have been going on

for months on the form such a tribunal could take in order to ensure Russian leaders cannot claim immunity. Kuleba said there were ways to move past the issue of immunity.

"These countries who put forward this reservation can simply withdraw. Second ... this issue can be left to the tribunal itself - there is an international legal practice that the tribunal itself decides on the jurisdiction it possesses."

The International Criminal

Court does not currently have jurisdiction to prosecute the crime of aggression in the Russia-Ukraine war.

The ICC, however, has issued arrest warrants for Russian President Vladimir Putin and the country's commissioner for children's rights charging them with personal responsibility for the abductions of children from Ukraine.

The court also has issued warrants for two senior Russian military officers for alleged responsibility for attacks on critical infrastructure in Ukraine.

"Let the real peace be restored faster. And let everyone who destroys peace be truly afraid of facing trial in The Hague," Zelenskyy said in a video message.

Ukraine's prosecutor general, Andriy Kostin, told the meeting that his country has identified 551 war crimes suspects, indicted 374 and has already prosecuted 104 people. Opening the conference, Dutch Foreign Minister Hanke Bruins Slot said the devastating toll of Russian attacks underscored the need to support Ukraine. "Because if we don't, the country's justice system will eventually collapse under the weight of these atrocities," she said. □



People look for salvageable pieces from burned cars at a mechanic shop that was set on fire during violence by armed gangs in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Monday, March 25, 2024.

Associated Press

By EVENS SANON

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— More than 53,000 people have fled Haiti's capital

in less than three weeks, the vast majority to escape unrelenting gang violence, according to a United Nations report released Tues-

## Haiti's surge in gang violence has led more than 53,000 to flee the capital in less than three weeks

day.

More than 60% are headed to Haiti's rural southern region, which worries U.N. officials.

"Our humanitarian colleagues emphasized that these departments do not have sufficient infrastructure, and host communities do not have sufficient resources, to cope with the large number of people fleeing Port-au-Prince," said U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric.

The southern region already hosts more than 116,000 Haitians who previously left Port-au-Prince, according to the report by the U.N.'s

International Organization for Migration.

The exodus from the capital of some 3 million people began shortly after powerful gangs launched a series of attacks on government institutions at the end of February. Gunmen have burned police stations, opened fire on the main international airport that remains closed and stormed Haiti's two biggest prisons, releasing more than 4,000 inmates.

More than 1,500 people have been reported killed up to March 22, and another 17,000 have been left homeless, according to the

U.N.

Among the rare travelers trying to head north instead of south from the capital were Marjorie Michelle-Jean, a 42-year-old street vendor, and her two children, ages 4 and 7.

"I want to see them alive," she said, explaining that stray bullets keep hitting the tin roof of their home. Last week, they tried twice to travel to her hometown of Mirebalais in central Haiti but were forced to turn back because of roadblocks.

"I will definitely try again," she said. "It's absolutely not safe in Port-au-Prince." □



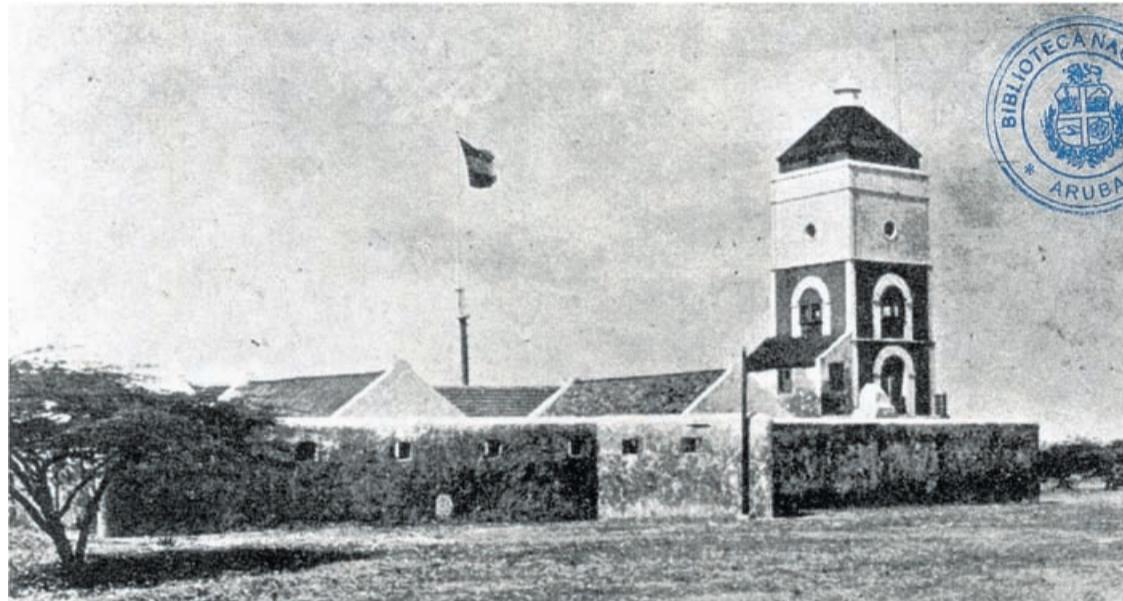
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## Visit the historic museum at Fort Zoutman!



**(Oranjestad)—Located in the middle of downtown Oranjestad, situated right next to the government building “Cocolishi”, is one of the oldest buildings of Aruba: Fort Zoutman. First constructed in 1796, this site has been used (or left unused) in many ways and have survived eras of war and attempted dismantling.**

When anyone refers to Fort Zoutman, they are actually referring to two separate buildings that, over the years, have been merged: the fort and the tower. That's right, the iconic 5-story, squared tower was not part of the original structure of the fort, and is actually called "Willem III Toren". Constructed in 1867, this tower was named after the then-reigning king

of The Netherlands, Willem III. Willem III Toren was originally a light tower, but after a request from Lieutenant Governor Jan Helenus in 1866, it also became a bell tower.

The fort itself was originally constructed to protect the commerce bay of Paardenbaai from pirates and other disreputable characters roaming the Caribbean Sea. Unlike the



Willem III Toren, Fort Zoutman had a more tumultuous past, including the on-and-off reception of unwanted members of the English military several times (The Netherlands was at constant war with England back in the colonial era). Over the years, both the fort and the tower had functioned as different government center points, including a tax and stamps office. For some time these two buildings also housed a police precinct and jail, and even experienced abandonment until the Cultural Center Aruba Foundation (CCA) petitioned for its renovation in

1964, turning the site into the Historic Museum it currently is.

Despite its small size, The Historic Museum guards a rich depository of the commercial, military and social history of Oranjestad, offering a glance into how the social culture of the town came to be. If you are interested in history and want to learn more about Aruba, then Fort Zoutman should definitely be included into your itinerary.

The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm.□

**Source: The Old Fort of Aruba**  
by Jan Hartog.

## The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island



**Recently, Ms. Marouska Heyliger had the great pleasure to honor a Loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba at their home away from home.**

The honorees:

Gerald and Linda Darfler as Distinguished Visitors from Colorado

Luc Anthony Zito as Goodwill Ambassador from Quebec

The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20-35 and more consecutive years.

Ms. Marouska Heyliger thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years together with the members of Marriott Surf Club

Top reason for returning provided by the honorees were:

Beautiful beaches, beautiful weather and safety of the island.□



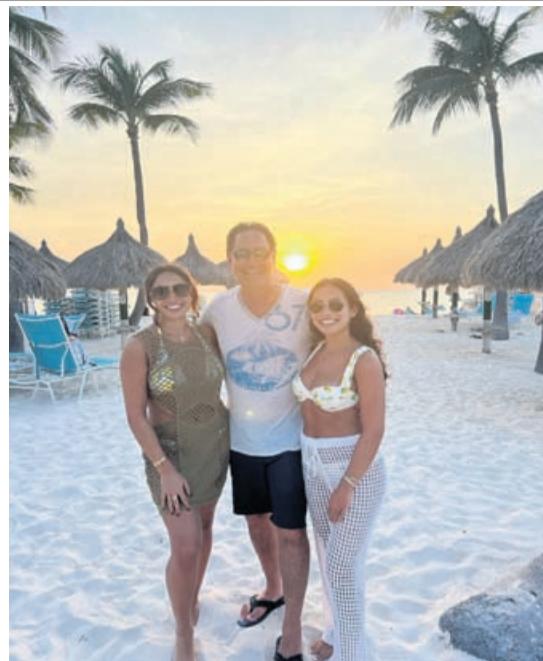
## Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from our awesome visitor Craig Schmell from Naples, Florida, USA.



He wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is our favorite island in the world. It is our home away from home. It is our happy place where I come every year with my children to bask in the sun, eat the best food and relax."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

Experience Aruban culture with this exciting theme night featuring a Carnival show, mixology bar, local artists and more. You can sample Aruban cuisine, including delicious BBQ options with a tropical twist. A local brass band will be performing, and you can pose with elaborately dressed Carnival dancers for a memorable photo op as well, so don't miss it.

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## Reports of jelly fish around Eagle Beach

Yesterday morning there have been reports of jelly fish stinging people around the Eagle Beach area. It has also been reported that those affected by the roaming sea creature had to be taken to the hospital for treatment.

Aruba Today would like to warn our visitors that may visit this beach to please take caution and do not approach these jelly fish if encountered. □

## Prohibited by law: leaving the island with seashells, white sand or corals

(Oranjestad)—Often times, the customs department at the airport intercepts many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and/or corals as souvenirs.

Conforming to the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is absolutely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba. This is to protect our environment. The high number of seashells, coral and amount of sand confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the ones selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable.

Upon confiscation at the airport, you can also face a fine that they have to

pay before leaving. This is surely not a pleasant experience for the tourist. This also leads to a negative reaction which can put our tourism in a negative light.

Though we love to accommodate our visitors, let's all give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop buying or accepting these from local sellers or companies.

We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals in a sustainable way, without destroying or disrupting the Aruban ecosystem. Help us protect what is ours! □



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## “Down the Rabbit Hole” Easter Event at Paseo Herencia



On Easter Sunday, March 31st, Paseo Herencia hosted an enchanting Easter Wonderland event, captivating guests with the theme "Down the Rabbit Hole" inspired by the movie Alice in Wonderland. The day was filled with laughter, entertainment, and delightful surprises and prizes.

The Mad Hatter served as a host, leading guests on an adventure filled with interactive games and silly jokes. The audience enjoyed an entertaining dance show with

the wonderland characters and young local singers making the young ones dance the night away. Guests eagerly participated in the Photo Egg Hunt, with one lucky winner emerging victorious after solving the Cheshire Cat's clues. Creativity flourished at the Coloring Corner, hosted at the Aruba Artist Gallery.

The excitement continues with Paseo Herencia's Easter Shop & Win campaign until April 8th, offering guests the chance to



win the Golden Basket filled with enchanting prizes. While you're here, don't miss out on our Sweet Temptations available for a limited time. Treat yourself to the delightful Caramel Wafer Mousse or shake at TGI Fridays, savor heavenly Filled Churros at King Churros, or indulge in Che Bar's decadent Dulce de Leche Profiteroles. Enjoy the rich flavors of Chocolate Crepes and alcohol-infused cakes at Drunk's Denial or enjoy sweet waffles and ice cream at Mimo's. With these tempting delights, each trip to our mall becomes a delightful adventure in sweetness.

Furthermore, Paseo Herencia hosts more live shows during the week at 8pm, providing entertainment for guests throughout their visit. Additionally, nightly watershows at 7:30pm, 8:30pm, and 9:30pm enhance the magical atmosphere of the mall, creating a truly enchanting experience for all.

For more information about Paseo Herencia's upcoming events and activities, please visit [www.paseoherencia.com](http://www.paseoherencia.com) or follow us on Facebook and Instagram at "paseoherencia".



## The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island

Recently, Ms. Marouska Heyliger had the great pleasure to honor a Loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba at their home away from home.

The honorees:

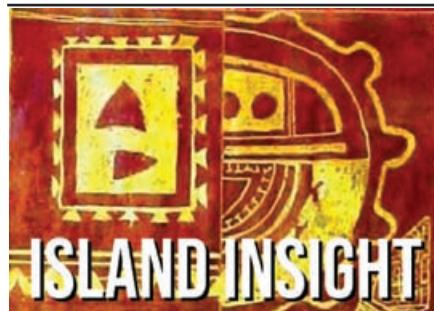
Marie Ruggiero as Emerald Ambassador from New York

The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20-35 and more consecutive years.

Ms. Marouska Heyliger thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years together with the members of Casa Del Mar

Top reason for returning provided by the honorees were:

Warm weather, Friendliness of locals and enjoying and meeting new friends.



Article by Etnia Nativa

WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience!

Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



## Our hidden island treasure

Each week, Island Insight shares with you a story of Aruba through the eyes of Etnia Nativa, a native venue that welcomes curious visitors to an island experience far beyond their usual expectations and connects each one with the mystical aspects of the island, its native culture, and its colonial heritage. In this episode and from that educational glance, we share intriguing curiosities concerning museums and collectors.

Museums emerged in the Renaissance period with the so-called cabinets of curiosities, which were private collections that housed a wide variety of objects, including natural specimens, scientific instruments, artwork, cultural items, and diverse artifacts, among others.

These collections, often assembled by scholars, scientists, and wealthy individuals who sought to acquire knowledge about the natural world, represented the early integration of science and technological development.

As scientific knowledge expanded and diversified, specialized museums began to emerge, and each museum represented the particular collection that shared the interests and advancements of its particular era and country. In addition to their function as repositories of scientific knowledge, museums have increasingly embraced an interactive and educational role while maintaining a continuous evolution.

It's fascinating to see how, over time, museums have transformed and adapted to new roles and perspectives,

extending their social function beyond safeguarding the past and promoting inspiring and meaningful experiences.

Since 1994, in Aruba, a hidden native cabinet of curiosities, known as Etnia Nativa, has contributed immensely to the island's cultural tourism, both behind the mainstream media and by welcoming exclusive visitors. This is done through the staging and presentation of objects, story telling, artworks, texts, images, a large botanical garden, and many more that create a vibrant and immersive experience for its visitors and for its followers on the media. "In situ," as they journey through each space, different scenarios invite different interactions with objects and artworks on permanent exhibition. Although the duration of the visit may be limited, the impact of the experience is such that it becomes a memorable and unique event. By sharing its private exhibitions, the museum narrates the authentic history of the island, going beyond the surface level and delving into the depth and richness of its cultural heritage presentation with the same passion and knowledge as it does weekly through our newspaper. The content of its exhibitions motivates

curious visitors to experience ancestral insular knowledge acquired through time, studies, and research data. This, on its part, encourages the transmission of the island's cultural traditions, giving it all a deeper understanding and appreciation of how Aruba's history is intertwined with colonial customs inside a particular environment that creates a visitor's connecting point with the past towards and into the present. Etnia Nativa shares appreciation for the island's heritage and breaks away from traditional exhibition models by actively engaging visitors in direct communication. Even before they enter the building, it signals visitors that they are about to embark on a journey of discovery and learning.

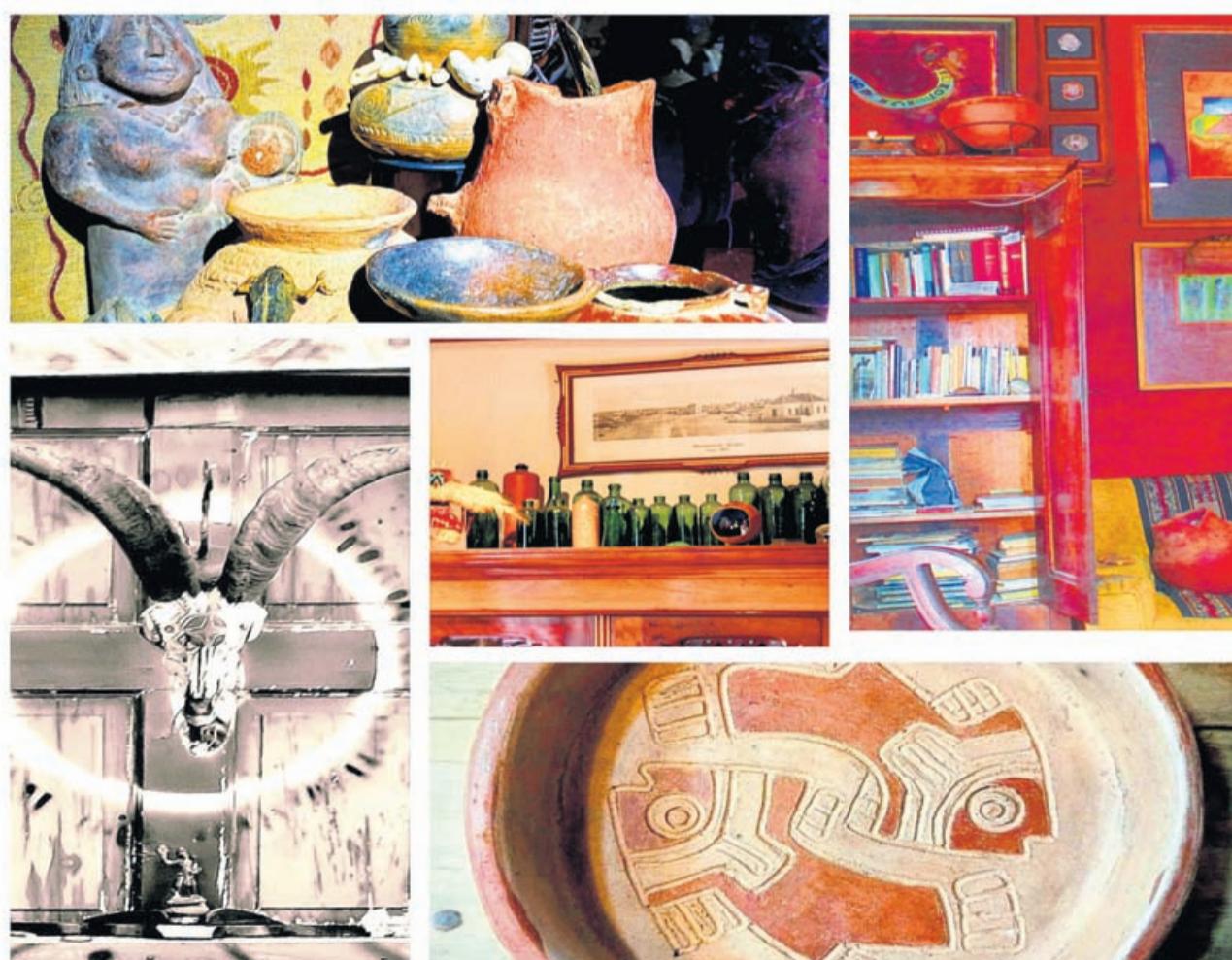
The owner, director, and curator of this unique museum is a multi-talented individual renowned for his skills as an engraver, ceramic artist, maverick anthropologist, intensive collector, and newspapers columnist. His artistic practices involve a captivating fusion of native imagery and indigenous design, often expressed through simple geometric "glyphs" that poignantly reflect people's relationship with the environment. By weaving indigenous techniques and spiritual teachings into his innovative work, the aim is to honor and preserve the island's cultural heritage as well as its traditions.

Connect in this newspaper to "our" hidden island treasure, a.k.a., cabinet of curiosities, through "Island Insight," its weekly cultural blog, and marvel at how it represents the particular thoughts, interests, and advancements of our island nation. In addition to serving as repositories of scientific knowledge, this native place and its select collections play an interactive and educational role in constant creation.

Etnia Nativa is a tribute to Aruba's rich history and cultural heritage, involving a beautiful property made only with reused materials and guided tours by the owner, whose native roots date back to 1640. Visitors enjoy a diverse array of artworks, objects, artifacts, dissected animals, plants, historical colonial furniture, and many more that you won't see anywhere else, proving the untold history of an Aruba yet to be discovered.

Visits are only by appointment WhatsApp +297 592 2702 etnianativa03@gmail.com

## Episode CCLI - 251



## Visit the island's popular cave sites!



**(Oranjestad)—Among the endless sea of dark brown sand and cacti, there are two caves hidden in the outskirts of San Nicolas, in the north-eastern area of the island. These caves, The Quadirikiri cave and The Fontein Cave are open to visitors of the Arikok National Park, so if you ever decide to take an “off-road” tour in the park, be sure to visit these prehistoric caves...and be sure to bring a flashlight!**

### Quadirikiri Cave

Known for its two chambers accompanied by a skylight, the Quadirikiri Cave is the most popular cave among locals and tourists, as it is easy to walk through and provides great lighting for pictures.

As with all prehistoric or ancient sites, there is always a folk legend that adds to the lore and mystery of the site. The Quadirikiri cave is no different. The most well-known legend behind the cave could be considered as Aruba's first love story, as it tells the tale of the undying love between the chief's daughter and her beloved. As legend would have it, the chief disapproved of his daughter's choice of lover, as he thought him unworthy. Stubborn and filled with anger, the daughter refused to turn away her beloved.

So, the chief decided to lock her up in the Quadirikiri

Cave, in hopes that she would soon calm down and turn away her lover. Her beloved, in turn, was locked away in the Tunnel of Love (Now known as the Huliba Cave).

Through the pathways underneath the Tunnel of Love running up to the Quadirikiri cave, the two love birds found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their stubbornness, they both died in the Quadirikiri Cave, their ascending spirits burning two holes in the ceiling of the cave. This is why the cave has two holes through which sunlight passes through to illuminate the chamber.

Though there have been discoveries of Amerindian drawings on the wall, these have mostly been ruined by vandalism. However, the Fontein Cave further up north, provides a better glimpse in prehistoric Amerindian paintings.

### Fontein Cave

Longer than the Quadirikiri Cave, the Fontein Cave contains pathways that stretch to the limestone walls further down. Here is also where prehistoric drawings can be seen. Though this cave does not have its own legend, this was speculated to have been occupied—or at least used by prehistoric Arawak settlers on the island for rituals and other spiritual

ceremonies.

### The Huliba Cave/ Tunnel of Love

The Huliba Cave, formerly known as the Tunnel of Love, was once open to the public, and was the biggest and most accessible of all three caves. This cave had five chambers, including one that is heart-shaped. This cave had narrow stairs that led to long pathways deep into the cave, with a staircase leading to the exit on the other side. In one of the chambers, there used to be the carving of the Virgin Mary, put there for the protection of the cave.

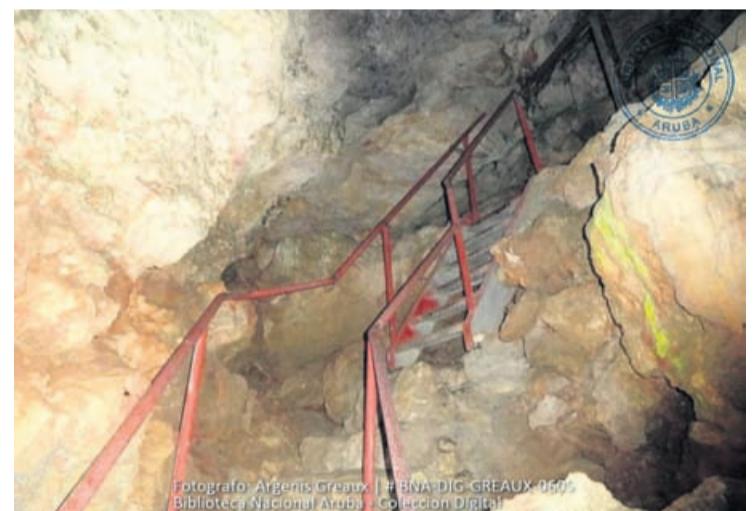
However, the Huliba Cave has been permanently closed for a few years now, as a way to preserve the bat population that lives in the cave. These Long Tongue Fruit Bats and Insect Eater Bats are very important to the ecosystem of the island. Though this cave is no longer accessible to the public, it surely is interesting to learn more about the history of these caves and the Arawak tribes that resided or utilized them.

Do note that these caves are very dark, humid, hot, and are inhabited by bats. Do wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as the pathways in these caves may be rough and bumpy, and don't forget to bring a flashlight! □

### Note to visitors:

Due to heavy rainfall in the past few days, Arikok National Park has informed that they have closed the Quadirikiri Cave until further notice for the safety of visitors.

Fontein remains open from 9am to 4pm.



## CROSSWORD

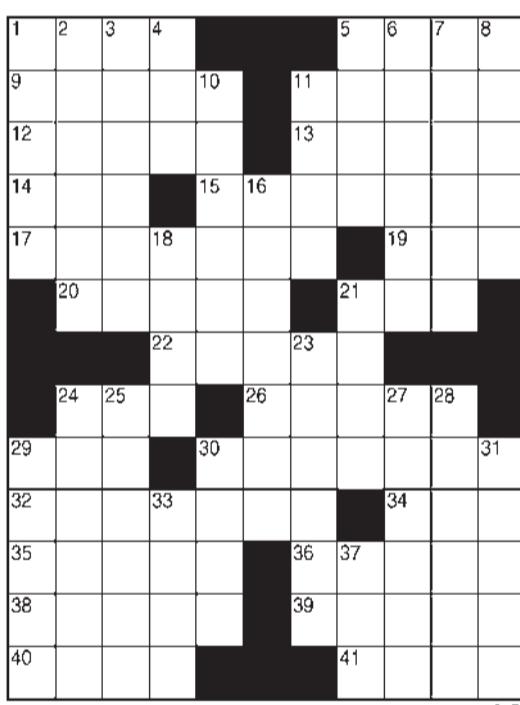
By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**

- 1 Speedy horse 40 Famed loch
- 5 Staff symbol
- 9 Train stop 41 Mosquito or gnat
- 11 Plain to see
- 12 Last letter
- 13 Rashness
- 14 Grier of "Jackie Brown"
- 15 Joined a melee
- 17 Fished with a net
- 19 Form 1040 org.
- 20 Places for pads
- 21 Lock opener
- 22 Sean of "The Lord of the Rings"
- 24 Inquire
- 26 Cager Shaquille
- 29 Back, on a boat
- 30 Proceeded slowly
- 32 Talked like a Texan
- 34 Bar topic
- 35 Opera's Callas
- 36 Entertain
- 38 Improve, in a way
- 39 Alpine trill



Yesterday's answer



4-3

A X Y D L B A A X R  
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-3

## CRYPTOQUOTE

CFOM UPJ HFEUQHD EF XF LQEUL  
LUPE GFT PYM MWVMBEQHD EF  
DME — FHCG LQEUL LUPE GFT  
PYM MWVMBEQHD EF DQOM —  
LUQBU QJ M O M Y G E U Q H D .  
— I P E U P Y Q H M U M V N T Y H  
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: SPRING WILL COME  
AND SO WILL HAPPINESS. HOLD ON. LIFE WILL  
GET WARMER. — ANITA KRIZZAN

## Cruise ship Schedule: Apr 3 - Apr 07 2024

WED	03	EURODAM ODYSSEY OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL HORIZON	07.00	16.00	B
			08.00	23.00	C
			07.00	15.00	I
THU	04	NORWEGIAN SKY	08.00	20.00	C
SAT	06	SEABOURN OVATION CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	23.00	B
SUN	07	CELEBRITY BEYOND - Dept.	16.00	****	C
			****	18.00	C

## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

## Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

## Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

## Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most su-

permarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



## Editor

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## Editors

Pilar Flores  
Richard Brooks  
Angenette Figuereo

## Sales

Mark Gomes  
Sulaika Croes

## Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

## Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

## Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22

T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com

W: www.arubatoday.com

f @arubatoday

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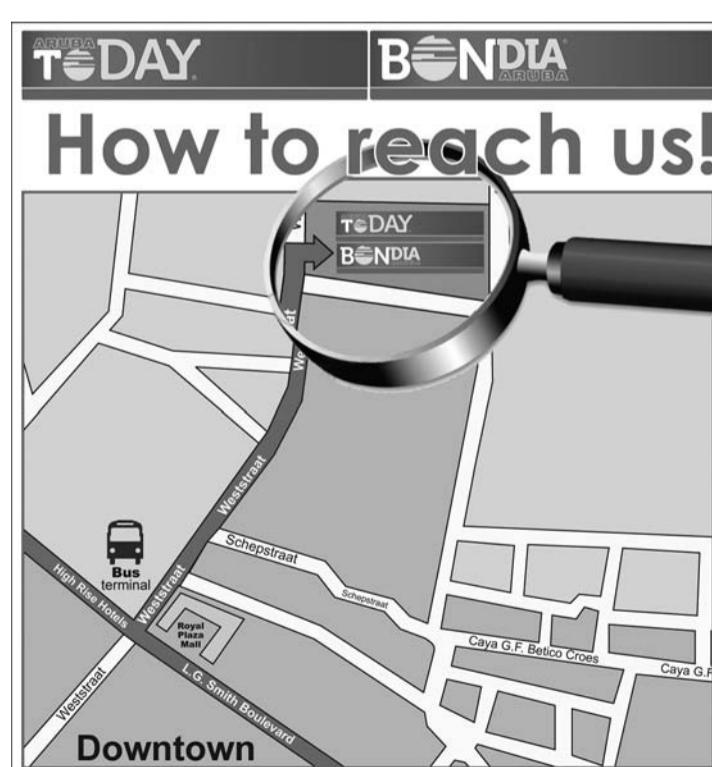
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# Millennial Money: Why adding a child as an authorized user might not help their credit

By LAUREN SCHWAHN  
of NerdWallet

As parents, we want the best for our children: health, happiness — and healthy credit. Having a strong credit profile can determine whether your kid gets approved for a loan or how much they'll pay for car insurance when they're grown. But establishing credit for someone with no credit history is challenging.

A common workaround is for parents to add their children as authorized users on their credit card accounts. Credit checks aren't required, and the user can quickly piggyback on the primary cardholder's credit history. But this arrangement isn't always the right move. Here's what to know about the potential limitations of adding your kid as an authorized user and alternative ways they can build credit.

## THEY MIGHT BE TOO YOUNG TO REAP THE BENEFITS

If you're hoping to boost your child's credit before they even learn to tell time, you could face roadblocks. For one, your kid may not qualify for authorized user status. While some card issuers don't have age restrictions, others require a minimum age of 13 or older.

Even if you can add your child, the issuer may not report their account details to the credit bureaus. Some issuers allow kids as young as



Several VISA and MASTER credit cards are shown in Buffalo Grove, Ill., Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024.  
Associated Press

13 to become authorized users but only report credit information for those age 18 and older. It's wise to ask your credit card company how authorized user arrangements work.

## MISUSE CAN LEAD TO DAMAGED CREDIT

Being an authorized user doesn't guarantee improved credit. "Same as the primary account holder, it can affect your credit positively or negatively, depending on how the card is used," says Bruce McClary, senior vice president of membership and communications at the National Foundation

for Credit Counseling. If you have a record of on-time payments and don't use too much available credit, that can generate or help your kid's credit score. But your credit and your child's can suffer if either person uses the account unfavorably.

Ultimately, it's up to the parent to keep the account in good standing.

"When you add someone as an authorized user, that's what they are. They're authorized to use the card but they are not legally bound to pay the bill. You are legally bound to pay the bill," says Julie Beckham, an ac-

credited financial counselor and financial educator in the Boston area. You don't need to give your kid the credit card. As long as the primary cardholder keeps their account open and active, the authorized user's credit will share the effects. If you give your child the card, set some ground rules. Talk about when it's OK to use the card, how much they're allowed to spend and who will make the payments. Some credit card companies let you place spending limits for authorized users. Removing your kid as an authorized user can undo

damage to their credit if the arrangement goes wrong.

## AUTHORIZED USER STATUS MIGHT NOT BE ENOUGH FOR FUTURE LENDERS

Some lenders don't take authorized user accounts into consideration when reviewing credit applications or give them much weight. "If you're a lender and you're looking at someone and you see the designation that they're an authorized user rather than the primary account holder, it's just telling you that this person did not have to go through a credit approval process to have access to that account," McClary says. Having an account in their own name puts your kid in a stronger position because it shows they're equipped to manage payments. You can guide them toward opportunities in adulthood.

"There are credit-builder loans that are available. There are starter credit cards for young adult consumers, where the threshold for approval is a little bit lower. You can also look at options for secured credit cards that require no credit check, but they require a good faith deposit in order to open the account," McClary says. Co-signing your kid's car or student loan can also help build their credit as they make on-time payments, but as with authorized user relationships, make sure you understand the risks. □



A Krispy Kreme Doughnuts sign is shown on Aug. 11, 2017, in Miami.  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — More and more businesses are taking advantage of the total solar eclipse set to dim skies across North America on Monday. In the snacks department alone, Krispy Kreme is teaming up with Oreo to sell a limited doughnut-cookie creation. Sonic Drive-In is

selling a "Blackout Slush Float." And Frito-Lay's SunChips has unveiled a new flavor that will only be available during the celestial event's nearly 4 and a half minutes of totality. MoonPie also kicked off a "Sun vs. Moon" smack-down-themed campaign as the chocolate snack

## From Krispy Kreme to SunChips, more and more companies roll out total solar eclipse promotions

maker promotes its "eclipse survival kit," made up of four mini MoonPies and two pairs of eclipse glasses. Meanwhile, airlines like Southwest and Delta have advertised eclipse-viewing flight paths. And beyond promotions from big-name brands, small businesses along the 115 mile (185 kilometer)-wide prime path are leading the charge to meet the incoming tourist demand. Some towns and local vendors have been anticipating the celestial event and its huge crowds for years.

There are oodles of special eclipse safety glasses for sale, along with T-shirts emblazoned with clever slogans and more astronomical souvenirs. Other offerings include eclipse-themed beer, specialty dining packages and watch parties at amusement parks, wineries and zoos.

Marketing tied to rare spectacles, like the sun's disappearing act behind the moon, isn't new. In 2017, the last time the U.S. saw a big slice of a total solar eclipse, scores

of companies tapped into the action — including Krispy Kreme.

The Charlotte, North Carolina-based company previously rolled out limited-edition chocolate glazed doughnuts for the 2017 eclipse, and those treats have made a few returns since. But that might not be the case for this year's "Total Solar Eclipse Doughnut." The Krispy Kreme-Oreo combo is set to be available from Friday through Monday, according to an announcement from the chain this week. □

## Baseball players' union head Tony Clark nearly doubled pay to \$4.25 million last year

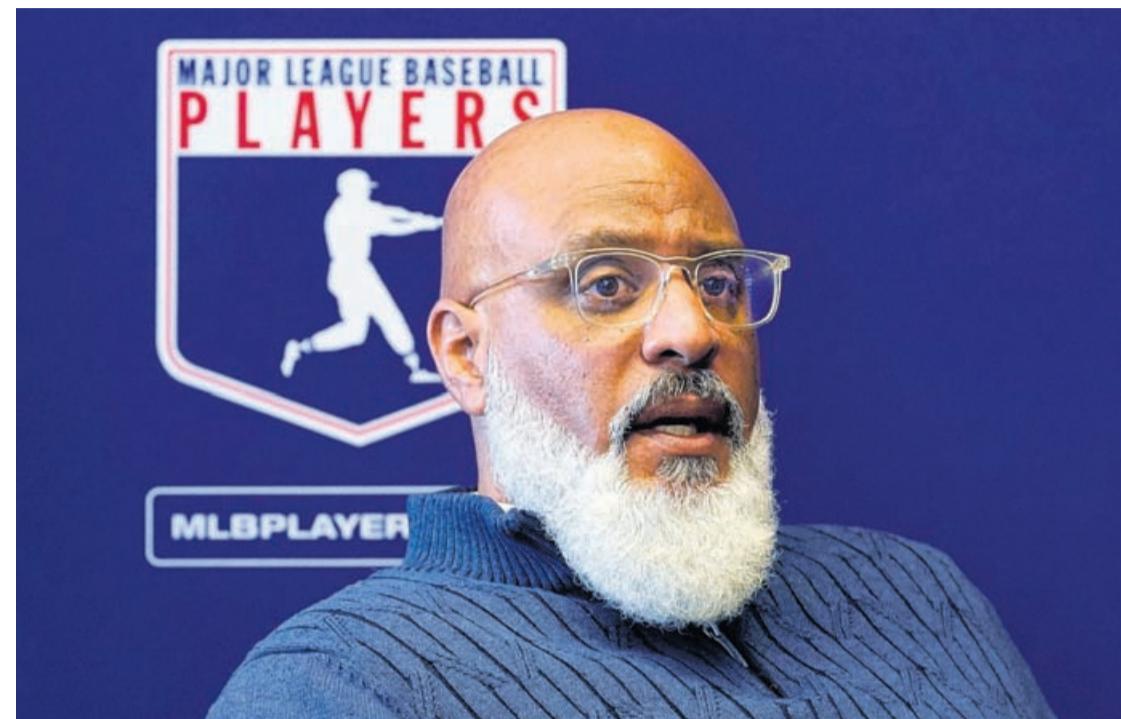
By RONALD BLUM  
AP Baseball Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Baseball players' association head Tony Clark nearly doubled his pay to \$4.25 million in 2023, according the union's annual federal disclosure filing Monday.

Clark's income had risen from just under \$2 million in his first full year after succeeding Michael Weiner as executive director in 2014 to \$2.25 million annually from 2019-2022. The union said Clark's salary was \$3.25 million and his 2023 income included a \$1 million bonus that followed collective bargaining. The players' association said it thought that bonus was similar to what other major league union executive directors received.

Clark has a \$17.95 million, five-year contract that includes salaries of \$3.41 million this year, \$3.58 million in 2025, \$3.76 million in 2026 and \$3.95 million in 2027, according to a financial statement by Mazars that also was filed Monday.

The disclosure of this raise came roughly two years after Clark oversaw a lockout that ended with a new collective bargaining agreement and about two weeks after lawyer Harry Marino attempted to rally players and oust Clark's No. 2, chief negotiator Bruce Meyer. Marino's critiques in-



Major League Baseball Players Association Executive Director Tony Clark answers a question during a news conference in New York on March 11, 2022.

Associated Press

clude mismanagement of MLBPA funds.

The players last week appeared to reject Marino's insurgency. Clark said the executive subcommittee authorized him to release a statement saying: "We still have issues to discuss, but one thing clear among the MLB executive subcommittee members is that this is no longer a Harry Marino discussion, in any respect."

Marino earned \$215,993 in 2023 before leaving the union last July. After helping minor league players unionize, Marino joined the MLBPA staff in

September 2022 and earned \$68,977 during the remainder of the year.

Meyer increased his pay to \$1.55 million from \$1.36 million in 2022, when he was promoted in July to deputy executive director from senior director of collective bargaining and legal. He has a five-year contract for \$7.8 million that includes salaries of \$1.5 million last year, \$1.53 million this year, \$1.56 million in 2025, \$1,592,000 in 2026 and \$1,624,000 in 2027. His agreement may be terminated by either side with 90 days' notice and by the

union at any time for cause. DeMaurice Smith, executive director of the NFL Players Association, earned roughly \$9.3 million in the year ending Feb. 28, 2023, then left last summer. Tamika Tremaglio, executive director of the National Basketball Players Association before resigning in November, made \$3.1 million in the year ending Sept. 30. Total MLBPA spending on employees rose to \$16.6 million last year from \$15.4 million in 2022 and \$11.9 million in 2021. General counsel Matt Nussbaum earned \$866,168 and deputy general counsel Jeff

Perconte \$681,330. Senior adviser Ian Penny, who had been general counsel until July 2022, earned \$834,404 and chief operating officer Xavier James \$662,952.

Former players listed include Chris Capuano, senior director of operation (\$432,625), and Dave Winfield, a special adviser to Clark (\$367,500). Other former players are special assistants Mike Myers (\$278,319), Steve Rogers (\$276,775), Phil Bradley (\$246,206), Rick Helling (\$217,324) and Bobby Bonilla (\$132,477).

Jeffrey Hammonds, associate director player programs and initiatives, was at \$25,884.

As part of its disclosure, the union filed its revised constitution, which specifies 38 executive board seats are held by major leaguers and 34 by minor leaguers.

The union paid \$427,484 in rent for its Arizona office, whose opening was announced in February 2023. Rent for the main office in New York totaled \$2,085,336. The accompanying financial statement says the union signed a 15-year lease in December for a new office space it estimates it will move to in October with a five-year extension possible. The union's rent obligations for all leases will rise from \$2.3 million in 2024 to \$3.7 million in 2028. □

## Germany withdraws soccer jerseys with number 44 because of Nazi symbolism

**BERLIN (AP)** — The German soccer federation and Adidas have stopped the sale of Germany jerseys with the number 44 because of a resemblance to the logo of the Nazi Party's notorious SS paramilitary units.

Adidas on Monday stopped offering the personalization of jerseys with names and numbers, and the federation halted the delivery of jerseys with the number 44 from its own online shop. The federation said it was looking for an alternative design for the number 4 together with its partner,

11teamsports.

"None of the parties involved saw any proximity to Nazi symbolism in the development process of the jersey design," the federation said on X, formerly Twitter. The moves to withdraw jerseys with number 44 came after it was pointed out that the two fours together resembled the stylized SS used by the Nazi Party's Schutzstaffel group.

Commonly known as the SS, it included police units, combat forces and others who ran the concentration camps that carried out the mass killings of

civilians during World War II. The stylized SS symbol is banned in Germany today. Adidas spokesman Oliver Brüggen told news agency dpa that the federation and 11teamsports were responsible for the design of the names and numbers on the shirts.

"People from around 100 countries work at Adidas. Our company stands for the promotion of diversity and inclusion, and as a company we actively campaign against xenophobia, antisemitism, violence and hatred in all forms," Brüggen



The official jerseys of the German national soccer team for the upcoming European Football Championship 2024 (UEFA EURO 2024) are on display at the headquarters of sporting goods manufacturer adidas AG, in Herzogenaurach, Germany, Thursday, March 14, 2024.

Associated Press

said. "Any attempts to promote divisive or exclusionary views are not part of our values as a brand." Brüggen said Adidas "strong-

ly rejects any suggestions that this was our intention." Germany is hosting the European Championship from June 14 to July 14. □



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SETAR

# For Nelly Korda, this could be the start of a special year

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

Nelly Korda finally gave herself a break from the high stress, thrill-a-minute golf that has produced the best start on the LPGA in more than a decade and returned the 25-year-old American to No. 1 in the world.

All she had to do for her third straight win — the longest streak on the LPGA since 2016 — was overcome a two-shot deficit, navigate through 15 players who began the final round within two shots of the lead and play bogey-free in the rain for a 7-under 65.

It doesn't sound easy. Korda just made it look that way.

"I think it was definitely one of my least stressful wins," Korda said after her two-shot victory in the Ford Championship outside of Phoenix.

Considering the previous two victories, she's right.

Korda won in blustery Florida conditions in late January by going bogey-double bogey-bogey to give up the lead, answering with an eagle-birdie finish and beating Lydia Ko in a playoff. Two weeks ago in cold, windy, miserable conditions along the California coast, Korda finished bogey-bogey, let off some steam and then won a playoff with a 10-foot birdie putt.

This latest win, her 11th career LPGA title, looked easy enough that her swing coach, Jamie Mulligan, suggested it was "the most Tiger-like victory she's had." This wasn't a direct comparison with Tiger Woods, only the manner in which he plays.

"That's what it looked like when he won. It looked like he played better than everyone else," Mulligan



Nelly Korda smiles as she poses for photographs with the trophy after winning the PGA Ford Championship golf tournament Sunday, March 31, 2024, in Gilbert, Ariz.

Associated Press

said. "Down the stretch she made zero mistakes and capitalized with good shots on the harder holes. So even though she only won by a couple of shots, it was dominant the way she controlled it."

One example was the 300-yard 16th hole. Korda, tied for the lead, decided when she reached the tee to lay up with a 7-wood instead of trying to drive the green. She hit a controlled pitching wedge from 108 yards that danced around the cup and set up a short birdie for her first lead of the day. It all felt so inevitable. Korda wasn't the only world No. 1 going for a third straight victory with the start of the major championship season around the corner.

Scottie Scheffler was in a

fight that featured a half-dozen players over the final nine holes at the Houston Open. He nearly pulled it off until he misread a 5-foot birdie putt on the final hole that would have forced a playoff with Stephan Jaeger.

Next up for Scheffler is the Masters, where he is the biggest betting favorite since Woods in 2013.

And next for Korda? "A beautiful, five-hour drive to Vegas," she said Sunday night, thinking more about an almond croissant she had saved for the drive than her latest feats. She is the first LPGA player since Ariya Jutanugarn in May 2016 to win three straight starts, and the first since Yani Tseng in 2012 to have three wins before April 1. No joke.

Dominance is not always about numbers.

Steve Williams, the long-time caddie for Woods, always thought his best golf was not necessarily the 2000 season when Woods won the U.S. Open by 15 shots, the British Open by eight and Firestone by 11 (in the dark, no less). It was the mid-2000s when Woods was so efficient he looked to be on cruise control, and no one had much of a chance.

Woods won seven straight on the PGA Tour from the middle of 2006 to the start of 2007, and just two of those wins were by five shots or more.

It's far too early to contemplate what Korda is capable of doing. Her swing is as fine as any in golf, so effortless and athletic. She puts

like she has no pulse.

"She might have the best motion in the game," Mulligan said. "She's an athlete making a hard game look easy."

And she is healthy, which cannot be overstated. Coming off a banner 2021 in which Korda won her first major and an Olympic gold medal, she had a blood clot in her left arm that required surgery and derailed much of her 2022 season. She missed a month in 2023 with back pain and went winless on the LPGA, unable to get any momentum.

She has loads of it now, not just because of how she is playing but her decision not to play.

Korda decided to skip the Asia swing on the LPGA, meaning seven weeks away. She went to Prague for a vacation. She spent time with family and she spent time in the gym, making fitness a priority.

"I enjoyed life outside of golf a little. Just disconnected," Korda said. "To me, that was just like the perfect reset going into this busy schedule."

Korda goes for No. 4 in a row this week in the T-Mobile Match Play at Shadow Creek, a course she has never seen. Another win would give her the longest winning streak on the LPGA since Lorena Ochoa won four in a row in 2008.

Ochoa was simply dynamic. She won five out of six times to start the 2008 season by a combined 37 shots. The previous year, she won eight times by 23 shots.

Korda has made it far too exciting for her tastes. "Normal Nelly things," she likes to call it. Right now that means winning, and it's hard not to imagine her starting to soar. □